

A Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) seen by myself at Yangebup Lake during January and February, 1957, and by Miss J. Russell and B. V. Teague in March, was probably the same individual seen by C. F. H. Jenkins (*W.A. Nat.*, 6: 55) at Bibra Lake in November, 1956.

—JULIAN R. FORD, Fremantle.

Yellow-billed Spoonbill and White Ibis at Australind.—On April 5, 1958, my son, Lindsay, and I inspected a pool near the Wellesley River and adjacent to the Brunswick-Australind road. Ten large white birds were present and at first sight all appeared to be White Egret (*Egretta alba*). One bird, however, attracted immediate attention by feeding in a typical spoonbill manner, i.e., pivoting head, neck and body from side to side with bill deeply submerged in the water in which the bird was standing. After some little time the bird raised its head, revealing a typical "spoon" bill, yellow in colour. Within a minute or so, the bird placed its head behind its wing and apparently went to sleep.

Only then could we give our attention to another bird about three feet from the Spoonbill, of similar form and also with head behind wing. We would have judged this to be a second Spoonbill, but whereas the legs of the Spoonbill were plainly yellow, those of its companion were black. As both birds had apparently settled down, we left the pool for a time.

Returning four hours later, we found all our white birds perched in a tree near the pool. All took to flight, a Yellow-billed Spoonbill (*Platalea flavipes*) and a White Ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*) separating from eight White Egret. The two former eventually settled in the pool while the Egret perched in a second tree nearby.

It seemed that the Spoonbill and the Ibis were fairly closely associated with each other and that both were loosely associated with the Egrets.

The Ibis appeared immature, i.e. head and neck were apparently fully feathered. In this respect it resembled five White Ibis which I saw by an ox-bow of the Preston River at Picton on May 15, 1957.

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Collie.

Little Eagle in Metropolitan Area.—A light phase Little Eagle (*Hieraaëtus morphnoides*) was seen gliding over the shore of Monger's Lake, Leederville, on June 4, 1956. It was identified from several characters, including the underwing pattern. The eagle was heckled for some time by a pair of Magpies and gave the plaintive whistling call usually given by this species when being heckled. Serventy (*Birds of the Swan River District*, 1948, p. 32) gives only two records for the district (Canning and Pickering Brook), neither of which is close to the city.

—J. H. CALABY, Canberra.

A Yellow Silvereye at Mandurah.—Further to the note by A. Jones on a yellow mutant of the Western Silvereye (*Zosterops australasica*) at Windy Harbour (*W.A. Nat.*, 6 (5): 127) I have to report a similar observation. In January 1958, while fishing at the

Murray River at Yunderup, my wife and I saw a handsome lutino Silvereye. The plumage was a creamy yellow with some darker feathers on the wings and the head. It was very conspicuous among its fellows dodging about in the foliage of the *Melaleucas* overhanging the water.

—C. C. SPORN, Mandurah.

The Australian Pratincole near the Western Australian Border.—Serventy and Whittell (*Birds of Western Australia*, 1951) do not record the Australian Pratincole (*Stiltia isabella*) in Western Australia south of the Kimberley Division, though it ranges over a large part of Eastern Australia. In South Australia it is known as far west as Ooldea and Streaky Bay. On February 4, 1957, however, I observed three birds close to the border, at the aerodrome at Koonalda in South Australia. The birds were not nervous and allowed an approach to within 50 yards. Since Koonalda is approximately 60 miles east of the state border it is not unlikely that Australian Pratincoles will be recorded eventually in the southern parts of this State.

—V. N. SERVENTY, Nedlands.

Diamond Dove at Dryandra.—Serventy and Whittell (*Handbook*, 1951, p. 74) state of the Diamond Dove (*Geopelia cuneata*) that it is not a regular inhabitant of the South-West but occasionally irrupts into this region. In the last few years there have been several published records for the South-West (see *W. Aust. Nat.*, 6: 24, and *Emu*, 57: 11). On Oct. 25, 1956, two Diamond Doves were seen by the writer and Mr. D. L. McIntosh on a sandy track near Dryandra. The field description recorded in the notebook was "red ring around eye, spots on forward half of wing, light blue-grey breast and neck."

—J. H. CALABY, Canberra.

Black Bream near Bridgetown.—The Black Bream (*Acanthopagrus butcheri*) is a common fish in the lower reaches of rivers in the South-West but there appears to be little on record of the extent of its penetration upstream. On October 26, 1954, about 10 p.m., a very large specimen was caught in the Blackwood River, just on the Boyup Brook side of the Bridgetown Road Board boundary. The approximate length of the Blackwood River from its mouth at Augusta to Bridgetown would be about 130 miles, without taking into account the minor windings (difficult to measure on the 10 miles to the inch map I used). Thus the actual distance would be very much more than this.

The fish measured 27.5 cm. to the caudal fork. After being filleted it was sent to Perth to Dr. D. L. Serventy for confirmation of the identification.

—S. R. WHITE, Floreat Park.

An Observation on the Drinking of *Trachysaurus rugosus*.—While working at the Biological Research Station on Rottnest I. early this year, the writer witnessed a rather unusual phenomenon with regard to the water balance physiology of the Bob-tailed